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LETTERS AND OTHER PAPERS, 1705-1829.

(From the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society)

MRS. AMBLER TO MRS. MASSIE.

Bottetourt Springs

November 13 [1824]

My dear Sally

Your letter was received about five weeks ago and you will scarcely believe me when I tell you that I have been so busy since that time that I have not had time to write a line. I did not wish to have any work to bring with me as I despise plain work of every kind and I was unable to bring Cinthia as she took it into her head to get married about a year ago and it kept her and myself pretty busy making the childrens aprons and the rest of their clothes. I have with me a girl about eleven years old and she is my sole dependance. However she takes as good care of the children as any old woman and my youngest requires very little nursing as she walks and says everything.

I had a most fatiguing journey shut up in the carriage and we were nine days on the road. Betsy was very sick for two or three days after my arrival in consequence of fatigue I suppose. She has recovered her usual health now.

Poor Mrs. Nat Burwell died a day or two after my arrival here of bilious fever leaving a family of young children. The girls went to hear the funeral sermon and returned yesterday. I could not leave Betsy or carry her as she was too unwell. I was afraid to undertake the road by your house as it is much worse than the one through the valley. However if nothing should happen to prevent it I am going down to visit grandpapa and will go on from there to see you. Fanny and Mary I think are uncommonly sweet girls I am distressed to find them situated as they are. I wish papa could be prevailed upon to have a separate house for his family to live in. I suppose papa will let them go down with me as I am anxious to have them

with me as much as possible and it will afford them great pleasure to visit their grandpapa and aunts. Papa went to Richmond a few days before my arrival and has not returned yet but is expected back every day. I hope papa will be compensated for all the trouble and expence he has been at in fitting up this place for company. I think the cabins are delightfully planed. They are so much more private than those at the others springs. You must excuse my not writing a longer letter as John has a very sore foot and I am knitting a course sock for him to wear over his other one and wish to finish it to day.

With my love to Mr. Massie and Tom I must bid you farewell and believe me to be yours affectionately

L. H. Ambler

[Addressed] Mrs Sarah T. Massie

Care of Mr William Massie

Nelson County

Roses Mills, Va

[Post Mark] Clover Dale Va 15th Nov. 1824

MRS. AMBLER TO MRS. MASSIE.

Oakly December 11th 1829

My dear Sally

We arrived at grandpapa's on the last of november and the day after Poor Fanny was taken very sick and it turned out that she had the scarlet fever which is very infectious. I was in hopes that we would escape but last night Mary and James were both seized with the symptoms of the disease and this morning James is very ill but Mary thank heaven is much better and broke out all over which always produces relief. Frances Langhorne and myself had both intended to have set off to day to pay you a visit but the sickness of James and Mary puts it entirely out of my power to visit you at all. I am in expectations of my children taking it and it is a most dangerous disorder for children of the age of mine. Another thing is I should give

it to all the children under your care. You cannot think what uneasiness it gives me to think of my children having it. The first symptom is violent sorethroat which you know is always dangerous for children. Fanny has not been down here yet as she still has fever so that their visit to their grand papa and aunts will give them but little satisfaction. I am afraid we will have a complete hospital at poor Frances's.

I am very sorry that I shall not be able to visit you as it would be most unreasonable in me to carry my family to your house to be sick. Mr. Ambler has returned home and I do not expect him untill January.

With my love to Mr. Massie and Tom I must bid you farewell and believe me to be yours most affectionately

L. H. Ambler

[Addressed] Mrs. Sarah T. Massie

Care of Mr. William Massie

Nelson County

Roses Mills Va.

[Post mark] Lynchg. Va. Dec. 18

NATHANIEL BLAKISTON TO PHILIP LUDWELL(1)

London ye 28 Jan'y 1705

Dear Sir,

I have ye favour of yrs of ye 10 of Sepr: and you much over

(1) Nathaniel Blakiston, agent for Virginia and Maryland in England, who had been governor of Maryland 1698-1701. Several of his letters have been published in this Magazine IV, 15, 23; XIX, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21. His correspondent, Philip Ludwell (the 2d) of "Greenspring," James City county, was born at "Carters Creek," Gloucester Co., Feb. 4, 1672, married Nov. 11, 1697, Hannah, daughter of Benjamin Harrison, of "Wakefield," and died Jan. 11, 1726-7. He was appointed to the Council in 1702, and belonged to the party opposed to Governor Nicholson.

Edward Nott, born 1634, died Aug. 23, 1706, was appointed Governor of Virginia Aug. 15, 1705. He was buried in Bruton Churchyard, Williamsburg, and the inscription on the tomb erected by the General Assembly is printed in Vol. XI, p. 73, *Collections of the Va. Historical Society*.

Col. Robert Hunter was commissioned Governor of Virginia Aug. 14, 1707; but on his way to the colony was captured by a French ship and never assumed office. Later he was Governor of New York.

The references of sending trees from Virginia to England are of interest.

rate my small endeavours wch was only to doe you service to Col: Nott and I am not without hope after x x x have had some month's experience of his justice and good natural disposition he will merit all you x x x to say of him. x x have inclosed a long letter to your selfe or the gentlemen that were so kinde to come x x x Compliments to me wch I crave leave to refer. You must confess as far as a man can Judge of things at a distance I am of your opinion that is if Nicho[ls]on had but raign'd a few months longer he would have put all in a convulsion but I hope were rescued in a lucky minute

I would not have you and those Gentlemen that wrote me the joynt letter be under any apprehensions of Nicho: haveing any power to get you called home for by all I converse with it seems to be repugnant to all law and justice, besides Mr Fouace advised wth Mr [?] Dodd who is looked upon a Post Lower than it was in his power to offset [The last sentence apparently reads as printed; but it makes no sense]

I have been to wait upon yr Father with Mr Fouace and gave him a full accot of what has occurred to me hitherto and shall continue it as occasion offers for yr service

I am not without hopes ere this ye Country of Virginia x x x undecided that all Nicho: notions were x x x and that he has no more x x x x to Virginia x x x

I hope yr Assembly in Virginia met with all good desire to settle an everlasting peace amongst you

S^r I am to returne you my thanks amongst Freinds & Gentlemen of ye Councill that were soe kind to have that good opinion of me to be more x x x concerned for Virginia but I desire you will x x x yr selfe in what ever Capacity I am I will x x x approve my selfe

Dear Sir x x x x

N. Blakiston

NATHANIEL BLAKISTON TO PHILIP LUDWELL

London ye 20 April 1705

S^r

I haveing so faire an opportunity as this I could not omitt returning my gratefull acknowledgm'ts to Coll: Ludwell for ye

many favours he conferred on me I was in Virginia, this you will receive by ye hands of Mr Blaire who has effected his Conquest at last, I hope yr new Gov'r Coll: Nott who is my neare relation will get all things ready to goe by this fleet if possible. I have not been wanting to make him sensible how happy he will to y'r good conversation. I hope his goeing over will heale all animositys. I am sure he will make it his study to oblige all Mankinde and you will find him in all respect an intire honest Gentleman, whom everybody heare speaks well of.

If you have any services for me in England I should be very proud and industrious to serve you or any Friend of y'rs for I am wth all obligation

D'r S'r

Y'r Faith'll h'e Ser'vt

N. Blakiston

[Addressed] For The Hon'ble Phillip Ludwell Esqr, junior In Virginia.

NATHANIEL BLAKISTON TO PHILIP LUDWELL.

London 22th Sepr 1707

Dear Sr

I am to acknowledge ye favour of y'rs to me ye 25 of June by wch I finde I have been ye Instrument of entaileing a trouble upon you about ye negro. Since you had him not y'r selfe and that he had a desire to be with Mr Clayton, you have been soe kinde to sell him beyond what I would have expected from Coll: Ludwell, 36 l. is a good price and I am sensible good bills a[re] very scarce, but when y'r leisure will give you leave to get a bill satisfactory to me, If you will be soe kinde but to pardon ye trouble.

Coll: Hunter has been gone from London above 15[?] weeks and has been on board ye Ruby and has meet with soe many illnatedured disapointm'ts to recount them would be very tedious to you, but I am not without hopes ere this reaches you he will have an opportunity to be ye messenger him selfe, I have already

writ my sentiments of that worthy Gentleman whose merit deserves better than only a share of that Go:vernment] and I am confident you will be of my opinion when you are soe happy as to be acquainted wth him. I shall not trouble you farther but beg you will upon all occations command him who is with great truth

Dr Sr
Yr most obliged h'l Ser't
N. Blakiston

NATHANIEL BLAKISTON TO PHILIP LUDWELL.

London 12th March 1708

Dear Sr

I have by this convoyance sent you a Dep'n as made by me ye 13 of Decr; about a week agoe I rec'd Copy of yrs to me dated ye 18 of Sepr and in ye postscript of yr Duplicate you sende me enclosed letter to Mr Southwell to intreat his favour about y'r conserne you desire and since you leave me a Latitude to keep or deliver ye letter as I shall judge fit I think it will be more suitable to keep it till such time as twil be occasion to move in this matter otherwise it will be forgot, besides I think it not advisable that anybody should suggest you have any veiews of this kinde so long before hand, but when Coll: Hunter comes and Mr Perry and my selfe will be sure to take most prudent steps we are capable of to get this matter upon the best Foot of success.

We have had ye ill tydings of ye imprudent conduct of a Gentleman who commanded at St Johns in Newfoundland w'ch misfortune will put us upon a great charge to regaine that place and in order to it there are severall Regm'ts to goe there and after they have done there are designed its said for some place else[?] it will not be prudent even for a man to conjecture where they are bound least he should gues right and his letter mis-carry, but a little will not let it be a secret. I am told y'r late Gov'r Collo: Nic: is gone or goeing over with them but what

distinguishing character may have or intended to give him is not yet known, but this I will be confident to affirm he will be cloathed with noe power to have any right to subject Virginia againe under his indescret and irregular conduct, if he had employed his time this last twenty years as other wise men has done he might have been in such circumstances as not to have gone any more abroad. Mr Blaire and ye rest of our Friends will be surprised to hear of this his expedition. I am told he took leave of Mr Perry on munday last but he like a politition consummate for wisdome told him when it was a proper time should heare of him. I am confident those at ye Helme will not advance their wisdome much in ye Choice they have made let ye affaire be what it will he is going upon. I am obliged to you for your kind overture[?] of sending me some trees. I know you send some over to ye Bishop of London and if you will be soe kinde to remember me with few I can place them where they will be very acceptable and it will be a very great obligation to him who is De Sr

Y'r most Faith'll Ser't

N. Blakiston

I am apt to beleive ye most proper time to deliver y'r letter to Mr Southwell be after we have discoursed Coll: Hunter in ye matter for I am noe stranger to Mr Southwell my selfe and can at any time waite upon him

Since you are soe Franke to send me a few trees I am informed amongst ye rest ye popler tree is very acceptable here
[Addressed] To The Hon'ble Coll: Phill: Ludwell In Virginia

WILLIAM BASSETT(2) TO PHILIP LUDWELL.

Virginia Sept y^e 22th 1713

I should thinke myself guilty of very ill manners if I did not acknowledge the Respect I have for you by a line, having an opportunity by a ship sayling from West poynt. I hope these will find you in a good state of health, & yo^r thoughts upon returning to us again w^{ch} you resolved when you left us, should be as speedy as possible. I have heard yo^r Lady & Daughters have been indisposed, but they & all friends, y^t I hear of are well. We had last month such a gust of wind & Raine y^t Broak & Spoyled all y^e Tobacco y^t was growing. It has done much damage to the Indian Corn & I am mistaken if it does not much lessen y^e Quantity of Tobacco, but y^e great mischeif is, what we shall make will be good for nothing, we have had soe much raine y^t has washed it soe thin, & even y^t in the houses is moulded wth y^e continual giving, that great part hanging is thought to be Rotten, the Ships going often hence, I know you cant miss of frequent advices, but yett I could not Omitt giving you this short accott of affaires.

I suppose you are informed Doct^r Cocke is made one of the Councill, if you rememb^r when I tooke my leave of you, I

(2) William Bassett, of "Elkham, "New Kent County, was appointed to the Council in 1702; but resigned some years afterwards. Governor Spotswood, writing March 6, 1710-11 to the Council of Trade, says "I beg leave in the first place to recommend [to fill a vacancy in Council] Collo. William Bassett, a Gentleman who has served formerly in that Station with General applause, and has established a good Character in the Country, the occasion of his quitting that station was (as he confessed to me) to avoid being in publick business in case a Governor should come hither with whom he could not live in that ease and quiett he so much desires, but I have had the good fortune to cure him of that jealousy." On May 8, 1712, Spotswood wrote that Col. Bassett had received the announcement of his appointment to the Council; but as it did not mention his restoration to his former place on the board he had declined to be sworn. The Governor did what he could for him and writing on Sept. 14, 1713 to the Lords of Trade said that Col. Bassett was "a Gent of as fine a Character and as plentiful Estate as any in this Country." Like Bassett, Spotswood thought that the opposition to Bassett's restoration to his former precedence was due to the opposition of Edmund Jennings. This opposition, arising no doubt from local politics, was successful and Bassett never again sat in Council. John Robinson, afterwards President of that body, being finally appointed to fill the vacant place.

showed you M^r Perry's Lett^{rs} where in he writt of the interest he was making wth the Councill, of Trade for me to take place in the Councill of Virg'a. as before; & y^t he had hopes to Effect it, I have lately Received a Letter from him in w^{ch} he tells me, vict that he singly & wth Coll^d Blaxston, & gott Coll^d Blaxston to speak to y^e Lord Orkney, & he did speak to y^e Board relating to me, & they seemed to be resolved not to be concern'd in my affair at all, what reason may be in the way he knows not, but they seem not willing to doe anything, & y^t he must have my farther advice, having done y^e utmost wth y^e Councill of Trade, & can gett noe manner of answer from them, save if not answer'd he may goe to y^e Queen & she may doe wth she pleases; This is what M^r Perry writes me, what favour I desire of you is, that if it lyes in your way before y^e Councill of Trade, you will doe me Justice to take of what reflections has beene lay'd on me that Board, I am apt to thinke, if their Lord Ship's has not beene mis informed to my prejudice they would never have been soe harsh in their answer,—I am not Conscious of any crime y^t I ever committed, & I should have beene much better sattisfyed, if I had not beene put into y^e Councill, y^r to have it in this manner, & had it not beene usual in y^e like case, I should have beene ashamed to have desired any friend to have moved it in my be halfe I never had any thoughts of being concerned had not Gov^r Spotswood desired me, & told me he should Recommend it to the Councill of Trade y^t might take place as had beene usual, & you know y^r is hardly any Instance in this Country to y^e Contrary, all I have to say is, if I am not to take my place as others have, Ill not serve at all, what chiefly troubles me is y^t I should be wronged in my Character before y^e Lords of Trade, I have heard, under y^e rose y^t Coll'o Jennings should say before he went hence, the Gov^r should find himself mistaken, if he thought to have me Right placed, I guess from that, he must have Represented if the Councill here, would have beene affronted for certainly nothing but such a thing as that, could have made y^e Lords agst—a thing so indifferent having allready sent an ord'r for my being one of y^e Councill,—thus you see how free I am to trouble you, but I hope you will excuse me, & Believe I am

S^r yor most assured & Oblig'dg
& humble servant

Wm Bassett

All my Family Salutes you with our most Humble & we all pray
you will present them to yo^r Father.

[Addressed] To The Honorble Coll'd Philip Ludwell Junr,
To be left at Mr Michjah Perry's Merchant In London.

ELIZABETH BEVERLEY TO A BROTHER. (3)

Dear Bro^r

I am very sorry we should be deprived of your company for want of Cloaths & I wish it ware in my power to give you some & I am shore if Mr Beverley had mony at command you would not want them or anything in reason for I doo assure you are a very perticular favorite of his (for which reason I should be very glad you could spend some of your time with him) when I see you I will give you my reasons for my beleaf & I hope your behaviour will be always such as to deserve his esteem & to doo it more effectually I would have you keep a Corryspondence with him by Letter which I am shore he would be very pleased with & am

Dear Bro^r

Youre aff't Sis'r

E. Beverley

(3) Elizabeth, wife of William Beverley, of "Blandfield," Essex Co., was daughter of Richard Bland, of "Jordans," Prince George Co. Her brothers were Richard, of "Jordans" (afterwards the distinguished statesman of the Revolutionary period) and Theoderick, of "Kippax." Her sisters were Mary who married Henry Lee of "Lee Hall," and Anne, who married Robert Munford. The latter died in 1744, leaving his estate much involved. The financial troubles were evidently overcome in the end, for Mrs. Munford's son Robert Munford was a man of considerable estate. His son William Munford was the well-known translator of Homer.

Mrs. Beverley's writing is characterized by the eccentricities common to ladies at that time—the second letter, filled as it is with sympathy for her sister and righteous indignation, being especially liberal in the matter of spelling. The reference to "grate relations" shows how the Beverleys, Blands and their circle were regarded in Virginia.

In the *William and Mary Quarterly*, III, 233, and 239, are references to Mrs. Munford's affairs in letters from Wm. Beverley. The latter is a letter dated Feb. 12, 1741, to Richard Bennett of Wye River, Maryland (who was regarded the wealthiest man in the Southern Colonies) asking him to buy the mortgage on Mrs. Munford's estate in order to give the family time to save the land.

MRS BEVERLEY TO CAPTAIN BLAND, 1745.

Dear Bro^r

As my poor Sis'r Monford has had repeated Instances of your Bro'y affection I make no doubt you will stick by her in her necessity by helping to pay of the Mortgage; without any expectation of being repayed which is what her Friends hear doos not expect which are Mr. Lee who makes her a Present of £50 & Mr Mills of the Money in your hands but I am deprived of the pleasure, both of doing a deed of Charity which is to me a much greater Satisfaction then wollowing in all the pride of Luxury, as well as being Instrumental in Releaving a Sis'r in her distress by Mr Beverley's not assisting her which I am sure you will Judge is a great concern to me for had I been a Bro'r I must tell you I should have been more active in the affair then I believe either of you have been or the affair would have been concluded before now, which the sooner it is you know the more to her advantage considering it goos upon interest & without the assistance of her friends you know it is not possible for her to pay it & unless they stand by her in this her nead they have the name without the substance & are not worthy of the title of friends & I am sure ware she to apply to strangers the sum would soon be raised, but what a scandal would that be to her grate relations, which is all but my love attend all of you & am Dear Bro'r Your Aff't Sis'r

Eliza Beverley

I fear you never will see my poor Sis'r Lee more

July the 4th 1745

[Addressed] Cap. Bland

at Buck Skin

in Prince George

JOHN BARNES TO THOMAS ADAMS.

[Extract]

American hemp some little time past would sell here at 26^l 7^s 10^d Ton. And I dont know that it is lower. Russia from 30 to

32—No doubt the Russia Merchts will do everything in their power to prevent its introduction, on y'r parts, therefore it is highly necessary that it be well handled before Shiping—if this be well observed, nothing can prevent the success of this valuable article, but I am very fearful it is not so well handled as it should be, and it will be some yrs before they will have due regard to this principal—to the want of drawing paper sizes of their Bar Iron from the Jerseys is the sole cause of their not finding a ready Sale, the Metal is exceeding good & approved of by every one. I hope you left all friends in Virginia well, I am D^r Sir with sincere Regard—fond to the friendly compliments of Mrs B., Mr Watson, Mr & Mrs Gresley (with whom we are again boarding) and where we should be very glad to see you

Your mst Ob'dt Hble Servt
John Barnes

Bristol 18 Octr 1767

[Addressed] To Mr Thos Adams at the Virginia Coffee House (4)
London.

ELIZABETH ADAMS TO A BROTHER.

Richmond Hill June 3^d

Dear Brother

I received your kind invitation and am exceedingly disappointed that it is not in my power to be a witness to your initiation into the married state but be assured you with your amiable Partner have my most sincere congratulations, by orr's Letter youll find you are disappointed in your wedding Garment however if you give proper directions you may have them to appear in on Sunday. I am sorry I could not procure any fruit, the

(4) Throughout the Eighteenth Century there is frequent mention of the Virginia Coffee House in letters to and from Virginians. It was evidently the favorite gathering place in London of Virginians and persons having business with them. Can any one state where it was and how long it existed?

Stockens & Gloves are sent: May every Blessing attend this happy union is the earnest wish of

Y'r most affect Sister

E. Adams

N. B. Dont forget my Love to ye [or yr] venerable old Father & I give him joy of his Daughter & Sister.

JERMAN BAKER(5) TO THOMAS ADAMS.

Bristol 8th January 1769

Dear Sir,

I suppose you have ere this rec'd Letters from our Country, and have learnt that the Forge at Rocky Ridge is the property of Mr Henry Morse, who was Clerk to Thompson & came home to Bristol about 3 months since. Colo. Byrd, who drew prizes himself to the Value of £18,000, has offer'd Thompson £5000 for the Forge, which I shall endeavor to persuade Morse to accept, its the Value of it, and yet well worth the money to any one who could improve it to its Capability—The new Crop was coming in fast, the price 22s. 6, it would be equal in quantity to the last, of which you have an account annexed—many ships loading on purchase. Bills so pleanty, & Cash so scarce that even the Glasgow people found it difficult to dispose of theirs—much rejoicing on the arrival of Lord Botetourt from whom the Country have great expectations, God grant they may not be mistaken—I shall be much obliged by your procuring me from Seyer, who youl find at the New England Coffee house, the Copy of the Patent to the Commissiarcy of the Customs which he promised me, I find I can make good use of it here, and if you can furnish me with Copys of the Remonstrance from the Assembly etc. I will use it *in confidence* in such manner as not to disapoint the purpose for which it was intended. Lord

(5) Jerman Baker, who was first a merchant in Petersburg or Blandford, became afterwards a distinguished lawyer. Though his name has now been almost forgotten he was, in the last decades of the Eighteenth Century, one of the leaders of the Virginia Bar. He was one of counsel for the plaintiffs in the famous British Debt Cases.

Clare is the oracle here & I was to convert some obstinate ones who talk as idly as the Treasurer of the Temple—Remember me kindly to Tabb, the Doctor and Miller. I wrote Blair a Letter for which he will laugh at me, desire his answer to it. I have not yet determined when I shall see you, depend on it as soon as possible, in the meantime write me as often as you can & News if any. I congratulate you on your new Alderman, if his Book could be bought I should be glad to have it—farewell, not an ounce of Female flesh here worth a thought, I shall part neither with money or time, nor wear out Shoe Leather in their Service

I am

Dear Tom

Your affect. Servt

Jerman Baker

Tobacco exported from	
the Upper district James River	15860 (9600 from Appomattox) .
Lower Do	1504
York River	5668
Rappahannock	9105
South Potowmack	5112
Free Bottoms	1974

39623 from 1 October 1767

to 1st October 1768.

[Addressed] To Mr Thomas Adams, Mercht. No. 3 Amen
Corner, London.

JERMAN BAKER TO THOMAS ADAMS.

Petersburg 24th December 1771

Dear Sir

I wrote you some little time since chiefly relating to J. Randolph's proposals to Mess. Perkins Buchanan & Brown. I hope they will be accepted as it will be to their mutual advantage and you may depend Jack will fulfil his engagements punctually, indeed he gives proof of it this year, as part of the Tobacco which

he now ships is purchased to replace that he lost in the Fresh. I bought it for him & for that, & some other moneys advanced him he has given me his bills on the House which I hope will be paid as I have remitted them for a very particular purpose. Will you let me know if you are benefitted by a correspondence in London as I should be pleased to forward anything to you which came in my way. I have already told you that I am much pleased with my own situation. I have a full share of the business of the Country where I practise, and my emoluments as an attorney in fact are not inconsiderable, this latter is a business which may be transplanted from Williamsburg higher up the Country, and I can (if it be necessary) give any security can be asked in this Country. My acquaintance with the business of a mercht. induces to an opinion that I can do the duty of an attorney in Fact with advantage and I am already much obliged to the Scotch merchts. of my acquaintance in that way. Perhaps I am the only man in Virginia, the Treasurer excepted, to whom the Calamity of last year will be beneficial.

Altho I speculate deeply in Politicks, I can say little on the Subject. I find the Government are determined to lay the Colonys under as few obligations as possible, is it just? is it good policy? to grant the Lands on the Western Waters to unknown people in Britain, when this Colony alone, has paid £500,000 to secure that Country from our natural enemy? Nay more, the very line that is to describe that same Country is now running at the expense of the people of Virginia. The establishment of a distinct government on the other side of the mountains, is necessary but what sort of people must those be, who will hold hands under these grants, not such I am sure, as should compose a British settlement. We have a successor to Lord Botetourt in his Government. When I can find out what sort of man he is, I will tell you. The knowledge we have of him at present is negative, he bears no similitude to his Predecessor. I desired you in my last, if any good Law Books fell in your way to secure them for me. I have lately received from Bristol the stock in Trade of a deceased attorney so that I want but few. I could use Croke's reports, Eli., Charles & James Trials per pais and above all "Saunders reports, 2 Vols. in one Volume French & English"

I suppose you take Snuff & Coffee at Crando's, as usual; pray present my Compliments to the old Lady & Miss Polly—I could wish to have the latter on Mount Ephraim, where I live, the most pleasant Spot, and healthful too, in Virginia. When you see Mr Jennings mention me as one who has the highest respect for him. farewell

I am truly

Dear Tom

Your affec't & Obed. Serv.

Jerman Baker

[Addressed] To Thomas Adams Esq

in

London.

JERMAN BAKER TO THOMAS ADAMS, 1775

Dear Sir

There is in Petersburg, one still of 80 gallons, price £44,2 Ditto, 40 Gall's each price £26, pr. each & two smaller wch belong to Mr Ross, the price of which I cannot learn as he is from home. all these Still's have heads & worms. You'l observe the prices are much higher than you expected. The Gent. who has the large one is from home but expected to return in a day or two. I shall endeavor to secure it for you if possible—as there is no great difference between its value & the price you mention:—let me know your inclination as to the others at your leisure. There has been very little business done among the trading people here for sometime past but for ready money However I expect to make the purchase for you without any demand of security from you or any other person, as I am possessed of some paper wch I believe will be current among them if the prices be to your liking you shall not be disapointed.

I sincerely wish you success in your undertaking and will own myself so much a friend to America as to hope, we shall be so far obliged to make trials of our internal resourses, that we shall be less fond of the Onions & Garlic we have so long submitted

to eat, my meaning however relates only to our commercial evils.

Dont you remember one Langrishe, who spoke at the Robin hood on the American question? he sat next to Dr. Lee & had on a queer kind of wig & a great coat calculated to conceal him from the knowledge of his acquaintance—We thought him an honest fellow, from the sentiments he delivered at that time—The Rascal is now a stout advocate in the Parliament of Ireland for sending a sufficient force to reduce the Rebels in America. I believe the three Kingdoms are filled with such reptiles. We must work out our own Salvation. I beg my best compliments to Mrs Adams, in which spouse joins with me.

I am your affect. humb. servt.

Jerman Baker

21 of March. 1775

[Addressed] To Thomas Adams Esq.

LUCY GAINES TO —, 1776.

Sr

my mother desires that I should come up to morrow if possible. I should be very glad if you will go to Mr butzs this evening and ask Mrs beck if she pleases to lend me her side saddle to ride up to my mother and you will greatly oblige

Your most humble Servt

Lucy Gaines.

The above is the first that ever Miss Lucy wrote by herself or without a Coppy, and I thenk it extremly well put together for her first performance of the kind March 9, 1776. By practice she will Improve, Being naturally very smart. J. H(6)
[Address in the childs' hand] To Mr J. h.

Belvidera

(From Corbin Papers)

(6) The writer of this letter, which is in quite a legible hand, was the housekeeper at "Belvidera" near Fredericksburg, the home of Col. William Dangerfield. J. H. was John Harrower, the Scotch indented servant tutor, whose diary has been printed in the *American Historical Review* VI, 65-107. Entries in the diary show that the housekeeper and Anthony Frazer, the overseer studied with Harrower in the evenings.

PETER BELLENGER(7) TO

Fort Dayton July 16, 1780

Sir,

Agreeable to General Orders received from Your Excellence, I have Classed the inhabitants, and can raise Eleven Men out of my Regiment. Yesterday about Noon a party of the Enemy, about 200 strong mostly Tories, fell in at a Place called New Petersburg, about 6 miles to the Westward of this place, and kill'd one Man and a Woman and have wounded another woman, and four men is missing who is prisoners as we suppose. They have Burn'd most of the houses and Barns, and have killed a number of Cattle. There was 22 Men in the Fort, Viz 12 of the Levies and 10 of the inhabitants, who fought them about 4 hours. As soon as we heard the firing I sent a party of 25 Men, but the Enemy fired upon them, and drove them through the River. They took a Woman prisoner and sent her to the Fort, to tell Him to Deliver the Fort up, or else they would storm the Fort in the night with 500 Men and put all to the Sword. The enemy has lost some men, as our People saw them fall, but how many we cannot tell

I am Ever Your Excellencies
Most Obedient Humble Servt
Peter Bellenger Colo.

MRS PARADISE(8) TO MRS HODGSON.

London No 29 Howland Street, Fitzroy Square.

My Dear Niece,

I hope you will have received my last letter. It is a long time I have not received a letter from you. If Mr Hodgson

(7) The name of Peter Bellinger does not appear in any Virginia Revolutionary record nor in Heitman.

(8) Mrs. Paradise was daughter of Philip Ludwell of "Greenspring," Va., and widow of John Paradise of London (see this Magazine XXII, 271.) Mrs. Paradise evidently considered that the widow of a President should receive the same honors as royalty. Besides this she had probably been well acquainted with Mrs. Washington in her younger days when the latter had lived at "The Six Chimney House," the Custis town home in Williamsburg.

would write to me and send a Letter to his nearest relations to pay me a visit that would get us acquainted. It would make me happy [words obliterated] United well always prosper. My affectionate [regards to] Cornelia and tell her she should write me and tell me the news of all our Relations and who is Married, Born and Died. I have altered my intention of going home for some time and for that reason I have taken the house No 29 Howland Street Fitzroy Square London. I read in the newspapers of June the 30th that Mrs Martha Washington the Wife of our great and Good General and President Washington was Dead. let me know if it is true and tell me the month and her age and what was the illness which was the cause of her Death. I went directly into Mourning and I shall continue in Mourning 6 months. If you and all my numerous Relations and acquaintance was to get into a habit of Writing it would make me happy. I hope Mr Hodgson and yourself and children are well. Present my affectionate compliments to Mr Hodgson and all my relations. In your answer to this Letter please tell me if the City of Washington is finished. Accept my blessings and my best wishes attend you all

Your Affectionate Aunt

Lucy Ludwell Paradise

July 31, 1802

P.S.—Please to tell me if the Congress is held in the City of Washington. Send me an answer soon. I love the three children of my dear sister.